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Title: Need to withdraw the move to shift Apparel park from Kannur to Thiruvanantapuram, Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): In accordance with the Textile Policy of the Government of India declared in 2000, Union Textile Ministry has decided to set up facilities for increasing exports in the major textile centres in the country. The Union Textile Ministry has identified 24 major export centres where Apparel Parks for Export Project are to be set up. Kannur is the only centre in the State of Kerala identified for the purpose. Now, it is reliably learnt that the Government of Kerala is making a move to shift the proposed centre from Kannur to Thiruvanantapuram. In this connection, I submit that the Textile Ministry identified the district of Kannur as the centre on the basis of textile exports from the district. Out of Rs. 328 crore of textile export from the State of Kerala, export worth Rs. 232 crore is from Kannur, and out of the 130 handloom exporters, 70 are from Kannur. So, there is no justification in the move to shift the centre from Kannur to Thiruvanantapuram. In this context, I appeal to the hon. Minister for Textile to give strict directions to the Government of Kerala not to shift the centre from Kannur to Thiruvanantapuram.